



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
LYNCHBURG, VA 24502
FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #1
Tuesday, April 1, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12:00 am Tuesday, April 1, 2003 through 12:00 am Wednesday, April 2, 2003. (New Information is in italics)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003 to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28th for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4th these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily.

3. WEATHER

Partly sunny and breezy this afternoon with temperatures in the high 50s to low 60s with winds ranging from 15-30 mph. Mostly clear tonight with lows in the 40-50 and winds 10-15 mph. Wednesday is forecasted to be sunny and much warmer with temperatures in the lower to upper 70s.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas in Community Relations (CR) and Human Services (HR).*
- B. Coordinate with FEMA on additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) and add-on and localities.*
- C. Complete Disaster Field Office (DFO) set-up.*
- D. Housing strategy coordination (Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC)).*
- E. Mitigation strategy coordination.*
- F. Public Assistance strategy coordination..*
- G. Obtain signatures for FEMA/State agreement.*
- H. Training for staff on Individual Household Program.*
- I. Establish training component for DFO.*

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- Section setup and integration with FEMA Human Services.*
- Soliciting local coordinators for updates to Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) of requested but non-designated jurisdiction with an eye to performing joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for potential disaster declaration add-ons.*
- Monitor teleregister data for potential disaster declaration add-ons and/or necessity for Disaster Recovery Centers.*
- Continue coordination with non-designated localities for adjusted damage assessments, PDAs and potential add-ons.*
- Prepare IA staffing plan.*

B. Public Assistance (PA):

- Work with FEMA in an effort to have additional localities, not declared, added to the snow and flooding declarations.*
- Prepare for Thursday's applicants briefing plan on Thursday, April 3rd.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- Obtained designated jurisdiction demographic data.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- *Coordinating mitigation and NFIP staffing.*
- *Currently reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Plan for 1458-DR-VA.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- *Finalize media list.*
- *Finalize Recovery Times copy and artwork.*
- *News advisory on opening of DFO and teleregistration.*
- *Media outreach in declared and undeclared localities.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- *Initiated notification of state senators and delegates of DFO activation/contacts and telephone numbers.*
- *Complete notifications; prepare packets of critical information for legislators.*

G. Information and Planning

- *Creating an e-mail listing of local administrators and emergency coordinators for the purpose of electronic mailing of Situation Reports (SITREP).*
- *Request Branch Daily Status Report forms by noon everyday for input into the SITREP.*

JHC
April 1, 2003
1800

Michael M. Cline, SCO